



THERE WAS AN OLD MAN WHO HAD TO DRIVE HIS SLEDGE TO THE FOREST FOR WOOD. A BEAR STOPPED HIM AND SAID, GIVE ME THAT HORSE OF YOURS OR I'LL EAT ALL YOUR SHEEP BEFORE SUMMER."



THE OLD MAN BEGGED TO BE ALLOWED TO KEEP THE HORSE UNTIL THE NEXT DAY SO HE COULD GET THE WOOD. THERE IS NOT A STICK OF FUEL IN THE HOUSE, HE SAID, AND MY POOR OLD WIFE AND MYSELF WILL BE FROZEN WITHOUT IT"



WELL, SAID THE BEAR THAT'S A BARGAIN, BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU DON'T COME BACK TO-MORROW I'LL EAT ALL YOUR SHEEP, SO, THE OLD MAN WENT ALONG TO GET HIS WOOD



IN HIS WAY HOME A FOX MET HIM AND SAID, "WHY ARE YOU SO DOWN IN THE MOUTH TO-DAY?" THE MAN TOLD OF HIS PROMISE TO THE BEAR, "I CAN SET YOU FREE OF THAT," SAID THE FOX, "IF YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR FATTEST SHEEP."

TO-MORROW - THE FOX'S PLAN



THE MAN MADE A BARGAIN WITH THE FOX WHO SAID, "WHEN YOU COME TO-MORROW TO GIVE THE HORSE TO THE BEAR I WILL MAKE A NOISE AMONG THE ROCKS ON THE HILLSIDE."



WHEN THE OLD BEAR ASKS WHAT IT IS, YOU SAY "IT'S PETER THE MARKSMAN, THE BEST SHOT IN THE WORLD" AFTER THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS YOURSELF."



NEXT DAY WHEN THE MAN MET THE BEAR THERE WAS A CLATTER AMONG THE ROCKS. "WHAT'S THAT?" ASKED THE BEAR. ON REPLIED THE MAN, "THAT'S PETER THE MARKSMAN, THE BEST SHOT IN THE WORLD."



HAVE YOU SEEN ANY BEARS AROUND HERE, ERIC?" CRIED A VOICE. "SAY NO!" SAID THE BEAR. "NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY" SAID ERIC. "WHAT'S THAT STANDING NEAR YOU THEN?" SAID THE VOICE.

TO-MORROW THE BEAR IN A GREAT FRIGHT



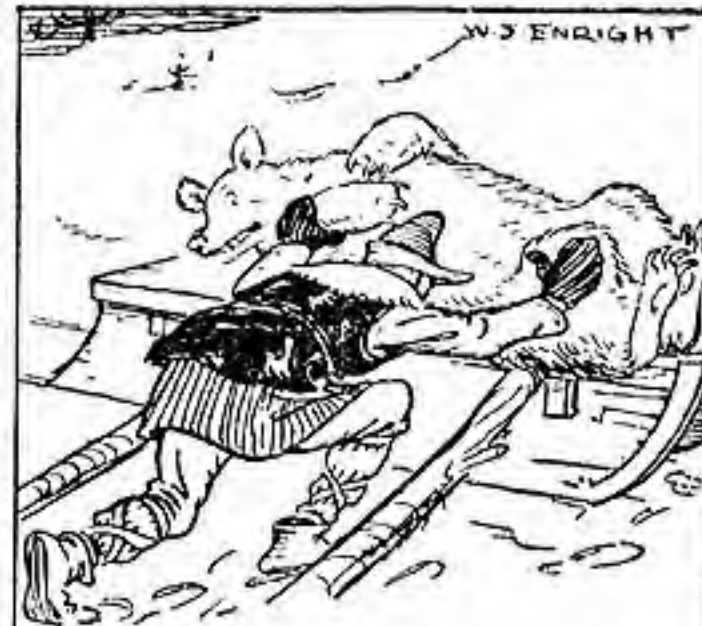
"**S**AY IT'S AN OLD STUMP" WHISPERED THE BEAR "IT'S JUST AN OLD STUMP" SHOUTED ERIC



"**S**UCH STUMPS WE ROLL ON OUR SLEDGES IN MY COUNTRY," SAID THE VOICE "IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE IT YOURSELF I'LL COME AND HELP YOU"



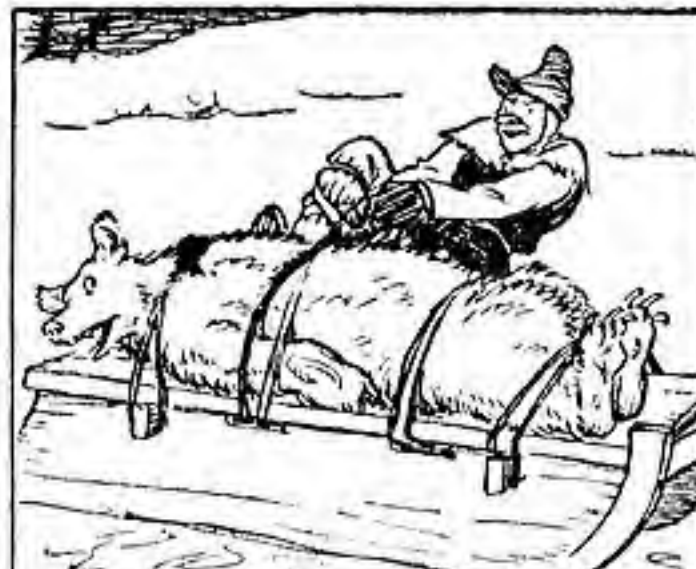
"**S**AY YOU CAN MANAGE IT YOURSELF" SAID THE BEAR "I CAN MANAGE IT MYSELF, THANK YOU PETER" SHOUTED THE MAN



"**S**O THE MAN ROLLED THE BEAR ON THE SLEDGE



SUCH STUMPS WE ALWAYS BIND FAST IN OUR SLEDGES IN MY COUNTRY," SAID THE VOICE. "IF YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF I'LL COME AND HELP YOU."



SAY YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF," SAID THE BEAR. "I CAN DO IT MYSELF, THANK YOU," SAID THE MAN AND HE BOUND THE BEAR SO FAST HE COULDN'T MOVE.



IN MY COUNTRY WE DRIVE AN AXE INTO SUCH STUMPS, FOR THEN WE CAN BETTER GUIDE THEM DOWN THE HILLS," SHOUTED THE VOICE FROM THE ROCKS. "PRETEND TO DO IT," SAID THE BEAR.



THEN THE MAN TOOK HIS AXE AND SPLIT THE BEAR'S HEAD AND SO HE SAVED DOBBIN AND HAD A FINE BEAR SKIN INTO THE BARGAIN.

TO-MORROW THE OLD MAN PICKS A SHEEP - BUT -



SO, THE FOX AND THE MAN WERE GOOD FRIENDS AND WENT ALONG THE ROAD TOGETHER.



BUT BEFORE THEY REACHED THE HOUSE THE FOX SAID, "I'M AFRAID YOUR WIFE DISLIKES ME SO I HAD BETTER WAIT HERE FOR YOU YOU CAN BRING THE SHEEP AND DON'T FAIL TO HAVE IT A GOOD FAT ONE."



SO THE OLD MAN WENT INTO THE BARN, PICKED A FINE FAT SHEEP AND WAS STARTING OUT WITH IT TO TAKE IT TO THE FOX



BUT HIS WIFE CAME AND ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS ABOUT WHEN HE TOLD HER SHE CRIED, "NOT A THING WILL THAT RASCAL HAVE FOR HE HAS ALREADY STOLEN MOST OF OUR GEES!"

TO MORROW THE FOX GETS HIS PRESENT



THE OLD WIFE WAS QUITE ANGRY AND TOLD HER HUSBAND TO SLIP TWO OF THEIR FASTEST HOUNDS INTO A SACK AND TAKE THEM TO THE FOX INSTEAD OF A SHEEP.



SO HE PUT THE HOUNDS INTO A SACK AND STARTED OFF TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOX.



HE FOUND HIM JUST WHERE HE HAD LEFT HIM AND, SETTING THE BAG ON THE GROUND, SAID, "THERE YOU ARE, COME AND TAKE YOUR SHEEP."



BUT WHEN THE FOX OPENED THE SACK HE GAVE A GREAT SPRING AND WAS OFF BEFORE THE HOUNDS. "WELL DONE IS OFTEN ILL PAID," HE CRIED AND HE WAS NEVER SEEN OR HEARD FROM AGAIN.

— HANSEL & GRETEL